



September 7, 2016

Honorable John T. Laettner
Judge of the Superior Court
Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Re: Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1609, "Human Trafficking"

Dear Judge Laettner:

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05, this letter responds to Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 1609, "Human Trafficking." This response was reviewed and authorized by the City Council at a duly noticed City Council meeting on September 6, 2016.

Grand Jury Findings

Finding #1: The San Francisco Bay Area is one of the three "hot spots" for human trafficking in California, along with Los Angeles and San Diego.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #1.

Finding #2: The emphasis in human trafficking cases has shifted from solely prosecution to a "victim-centered" approach in which the needs of persons who have been trafficked receive equal consideration.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #2

Finding #3: Effectively identifying and apprehending traffickers requires knowledge of the local environment and criminal activities acquired through years of experience.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #3

Finding #4: Most police officer training related to human trafficking is acquired through working with more experienced officers and victim advocates.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #4

Finding #5: The required two-hour POST Training Video in dealing with human trafficking complaints provides a general basis, but more intensive training found in the POST 2014 training manual contains in-depth coverage of the issues important to officers assigned to trafficking cases.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #5

Finding #6: Successful apprehension and prosecution of traffickers often involves coordination and cooperation among local, State and federal agencies.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #6

Finding #7: City law enforcement and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department have no comprehensive or consistent method for analyzing data about the number and type of adult trafficking victims. More data that is complete is needed to define the magnitude of the problem and to support decisions about victim services and resource allocation.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #7

Finding #8: City law enforcement and Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department does not always use resources offered by State and federal for joint "sting" and "sweep" operations.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #8

Finding #9 Trafficking frequently occurs in combination with other violent crimes and its victims often have a history of abuse and trauma.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #9

Finding #10: The use of specialist multidisciplinary teams in high crime areas can increase the likelihood that trafficking will be recognized as a component of other crimes.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #10

Finding #11: Public awareness is a critical factor in identifying potential human trafficking activity.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #10

Finding#14: A comprehensive approach to dealing with human trafficking includes robust community engagement; training law enforcement in responding to human trafficking incidents; vigorous prosecution of perpetrators; education of and advocacy to policy makers; and wrap-around services for victims/survivors.

Response: Orinda agrees with Finding #11

Grand Jury Recommendations

Recommendation #1: City law enforcement agencies and the Sheriff's Department should consider incorporating expanded training for officers assigned to trafficking related duties.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented as Orinda has the ability to utilize the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office Investigations Unit in these matters as Orinda Police is a contract city with the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office detectives have received training within the past 6 months and make themselves available for additional training opportunities as they become available.


Recommendation #2: City Law Enforcement agencies and the Sheriff's Department should consider increasing collaboration with State and federal law enforcement to expand "sweeps" and "stings" in high crime areas.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented as Orinda has the ability to utilize the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office Investigations Unit in these matters as Orinda Police is a contract city with the Sheriff's Office. The Office of the Sheriff currently collaborates with the FBI and other government entities to conduct sweeps and sting operations. These operations occur multiple times per year.

Recommendation #3: City Law Enforcement agencies and the Sheriff's Department should consider the benefits of assigning multidisciplinary teams in areas with significant drug, gang and/or prostitution activity to assist in identifying trafficking activities.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented as Orinda has the ability to utilize the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office Investigations Unit in these matters as Orinda Police is a contract city with the Sheriff's Office. The Office of the Sheriff routinely collaborates with the FBI and other governmental entities who identify and target drug, gang, and prostitution activity. The Office of the Sheriff has personnel assigned to the Contra Costa County's SAFE Streets Task Force and the Contra Costa County Anti-violence Support Effort. The Office of the Sheriff also operates a Vice Unit and a Special Victims Unit. These units contain detectives specially trained to identify and target human trafficking and associated crimes. Additionally, beginning in May of 2016, the Office of the Sheriff assigned a detective from the Special Victims Unit to participate on the Contra Costa County Human Trafficking Multidisciplinary Team.

The City of Orinda appreciates the time and effort spent by His Honor and the Grand Jury in consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Eve Phillips
Vice Mayor, City of Orinda

cc: Grand Jury Foreperson Michael Simmons